

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY
ASSOCIATIONS, WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 16-23

REF: (A) MOSCOW 13448; (B) STATE 199578; (C) MOSCOW
COUNTRY PLAN, OM DTD. JULY 24, 1974

1. CAO MET WITH VASILY VASILYEVICH SEROV, CHIEF, LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATION, MIN CULT, TO DISCUSS SOVIET PLANS FOR ASSOCIATION
MEETING AND TO PROPOSE FURTHER CONTACTS IN LIBRARY FIELD
(REFTELS). SOVIETS SENDING TWO GROUPS TO MEETING: OFFICIAL
DELEGATION OF TEN AND "TOURIST" GROUP OF TWENTY-SEVEN.
DELEGATES NOT FREE FOR FURTHER OBSERVATION OF U.S. LIBRARIES
BEFORE OR AFTER CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF PREPARATION FOR DECEMBER
MEETING HERE TO IMPLEMENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECREE ON LIBRARY
DEVELOPMENT.

2. SEROV AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OFFICIAL DELEGATION WOULD
BE GLAD TO DISCUSS EXPANSION OF LIBRARY CONTACTS WITH U.S.
LIBRARY LEADERS AND WITH CU OFFICIALS DURING WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE. THEY EXPECT TO BE OCCUPIED WITH PREPARATION WORK
ON PLENUMS NOVEMBER 16-18, 19, 22 BUT SHOULD HAVE FREE TIME
FOR CONTACT WITH CU NOVEMBER 20, 21 OR 23. OFFICIAL DELEGATION
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DEPARTS NOVEMBER 24 AND TOUR GROUP NOVEMBER 28.

3. SEROV AGREED THAT IN-DEPTH CONTACTS IN LIBRARY FIELD SHOULD BE INCREASED. LAST SUBSTANTIVE DELEGATION EXCHANGE WAS IN 1960, WHEN GROUPS FROM EACH SIDE DID THREE-WEEK STUDY AND PUBLISHED EXTENSIVE REPORTS, AND SINCE THEN CONTACTS MOSTLY HAVE BEEN BRIEF INDIVIDUAL VISITS.

4. SEROV VISITED BOSTON AND NEW YORK AFTER 1967 MONTREAL IFLA CONFERENCE, BUT HE DESCRIBED THIS TRIP AS SUPERFICIAL. 1970 IFLA MOSCOW CONFERENCE BROUGHT 97 AMERICANS WHO ALSO TOURED LIBRARIES AS ORIENTATION, BUT SOVIETS FELT THAT CONTACT ALSO NOT SUBSTANTIVE.

5. SOVIETS INTERESTED IN MORE IN-DEPTH EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS AND ALSO PREPARED DISCUSS EXCHANGE OF SERIOUS, WORKING DELEGATIONS WHICH IN TURN COULD DEVELOP PLANS FOR LONG-RANGE CONTACTS (SEE COUNTRY PLAN). ALSO DISCUSSED AS POTENTIAL EXCHANGE IDEA WAS JOINT LIBRARY SEMINAR TO TAKE PLACE IN U.S. BICENTENNIAL YEAR. FIRST STAGE OF SEMINAR MIGHT BEGIN IN USSR WITH U.S. EXPERTS LECTURING TO 400-600 LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS AND SPECIALISTS HERE, FOLLOWED BY REPORTS AND DISCUSSION. SECOND STAGE OF SEMINAR COULD TAKE PLACE IN U.S. LATER IN YEAR AND INCLUDE DETAILED OBSERVATION OF U.S. LIBRARIES.

6. TOPICS FOR DELEGATION AND EXPERT EXCHANGES IN WHICH SOVIETS INTERESTED INCLUDE MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION OF AMERICAN LIBRARIES, TECHNICAL AIDS, TRAINING OF LIBRARY EXPERTS, PLANNING OF LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION OF STATE LIBRARY SYSTEMS, AND DESIGN OF LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

7. SOVIETS APPEAR INTERESTED IN SERIOUS EXCHANGES. AS NOTED IN COUNTRY PLAN, BELIEVE LIBRARIES, EXTENSIVE IN USSR, AN IMPORTANT FIELD IN WHICH TO DEVELOP MORE SUBSTANTIVE TIES. RECOMMEND CU REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT SEROV AT CONFERENCE, AFTER HAVING BROACHED TOPIC TO SOVIET EMBASSY CULTURAL SECTION, AND CARRY OUT EXPLORATORY TALKS. IF POSSIBLE, BELIEVE CALL BY DELEGATION ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

STOESSEL

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